

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Duane Pierce, Rosemary Desisles, Lynn Geiser, Joe Witkowski, Tracy Rosinski

EXCUSED: Jim Haskins, Delores Pierce

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1688 .**

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 pm.

2. **Invocation.** *There was no invocation as Jim Haskins was excused from the meeting.*

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to approve. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of July 21, 2015.**

**Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to approve. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Budget Status Financial Report, June, 2015.**

Erickson advised that this report was presented for informational purposes.

**Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Ed Koslowski to accept financial report.
Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **Discussion re: Honor Rewards Program.**

CVSO Jerry Polus indicated that this item can be held until the September meeting.

7. **Discussion regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair in preparation for 2015.**

Lynn Geiser indicated that retired Navy Commander Liz Somers will be doing the Pledge of Allegiance instead of Chris Cornelius.

Jerry Polus felt that event sponsors should be thanked at some point during the ceremony, prior to the distribution of door prizes. These sponsors would include Heartland Hospice, businesses that donated door prizes and the Meet and Greet group. Erickson noted that he will have a list of sponsors posted at the event as well.

Ed Koslowski informed that he was at the Fairgrounds earlier in the day and the tent and stage are set up. The tent is in a little different location than it was last year to allow better access to

the road. Koslowski is working on the final details regarding the vehicles that will be on display. He also noted that Outfitters 4 Patriots has been added to the lineup of organizations that will have tables in the tent.

Geiser recently did a news segment regarding the Fair and Erickson stated he will be live on WTAQ in the morning with Mike Austin to do a little publicity. He also noted that there may be news coverage on the day of the event.

Koslowski informed that he has started working on the inside display. The space is a little smaller this year but he did not anticipate that to be a problem. He will be finishing up the display as well as putting banners up in the next few days, weather permitting.

Polus felt that everything for the event is under control and he is comfortable with all of the arrangements and details. Erickson stated that he also felt everything has been covered. Koslowski indicated that he will arrive early on Saturday to get the tables set up and covered and the organizations can begin setting up around 11:00 am. Geiser indicated that she has a banner honoring female veterans that she will bring and Koslowski will also be looking for flags for the outside of the tent for better eye appeal.

8. **Discussion re: Honoring female veterans at the Fair including carnations and certificates.**

Erickson will order the carnations and pick them up. He will also make sure that the proclamation and certificates are ready to go for Saturday.

Witkowski brought up the idea of advertising the Appreciation Day event with a billboard. This is something that can be discussed in more detail for next year's event.

9. **Possible Discussion re: Veterans Day donation list.**

Rosemary Desisles reported that she has been keeping in touch with Sherry Steenbock to be sure that everything gets done on the appropriate timeline. Desisles would like to divide the solicitation list up so that each member has about 20 contacts to make. She will have the list available at the September meeting so members can start making calls about 1 ½ months prior to the event. Desisles also noted that some businesses require that solicitations be made in writing and letters to those organizations have been prepared and will be mailed out on September 1.

10. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus did not have anything further to add to what was discussed above.

11. **Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Soderberg was not in attendance at the meeting and therefore there was no report.

12. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Geiser, Koslowski, Maino, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).**

-Erickson reported that he has received some very nice door prizes for the Fair from Sanimax, Stadium View, Pancake Place, National Guard, Ad Ideas and Team Self Storage. He will have appreciation certificates made for these donors which he will frame and present to each of them.

-Desisles did not have anything further to report.

-Geiser reported that she has been able to help several women through her empowerment program. She is happy to see the people who need help making contact with her. She also noted that she is now employed at the Job Center and would be happy to help any vets who are looking for a job.

-Koslowski reported on the Veterans Manor. He spoke of some recent donations of items as well as some monetary donations that have been received. He noted that some veterans who move into the facility do not even have the ability to pay the first month's rent of \$50 so cash donations are helpful. Anyone wishing to donate larger items such as furniture should contact the manager, Mike, as they cannot store large items. Rosinski asked what items would be needed if a donation drive were done and Koslowski stated that toiletry items are always needed and appreciated, but he can get a more detailed list of needs. He also noted that cleaning supplies seem to be in demand.

-Pierce reported that Legion Post 11 on North Irwin will be holding their semi-annual booyah sale on September 12 beginning at noon. A raffle will also be held in conjunction with the booyah sale and he noted that the top prize is \$800 cash. Pierce also advised that the annual candlelight ceremony marking POW Day will be held outside the POW memorial at the Courthouse (Jefferson Street side) on September 18.

-Rosinski reported on author Debra Grassman's visit in September. She provided information as to the events that will be offered, a copy of which is attached. In addition to the events outlined in the brochure, Grassman will be doing training at the veteran's home at King. Anyone interested in attending these events can let Rosinski know.

Rosinski also noted that Outfitters 4 Patriots will be holding their golf outing on August 23 and anyone who would like to take part can let her know.

-Witkowski shared three items from the newspaper. One was with regard to a welcome home event on August 29 at Bay Beach from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm being sponsored by the Green Bay Healthcare Center. The event includes a free cookout and volleyball. The second article Witkowski shared was with regard to the first official day without war with Japan on August 14, 1945. Finally Witkowski shared an article regarding the Gettysburg Address.

13. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.** *None.*

14. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Tracy Rosinski to adjourn at 5:43 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary

Wounded Warriors: Their Last Battle



Deborah Grassman

September 10, 2015 at 3:30

**Mary Ann Cofrin Hall
Rm 103
University of Wisconsin-
Green Bay**

Many military experiences impact peaceful dying for veterans – even though their death might not occur until decades later. Emotional, spiritual, social, and moral injuries that veterans have sustained impact them throughout their lifetime, especially as they face death. You will learn about the unique needs of veterans as they age and face the end of their lives, the impact of the military experience on families, and tools for effective ways to respond to veterans' needs. She will talk about soul injury and "warrior wisdom."

- Deborah is a mental health nurse practitioner who is recognized as one of the nation's leading experts in caring for Veterans nearing the end of life.
- She is the CEO and co-founder of Opus Peace, a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to provide programs that respond to the soul injury that occurs during trauma, abuse, self-neglect, and serious illness.
- Author of two books: *Peace at Last* and *The Hero Within*.



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WE HONOR VETERANS

HOPE AND HEALING

Many people do not realize that military service influences soldiers in ways that can sometimes complicate peaceful dying, even though their death may not occur until many years after they leave military service.

Deborah was the first person to identify the influence that the military sometimes exerts on dying veterans. You will learn about the unique needs of veterans as they age and face the end of their lives, the impact of the military experience on families, and tools for effective ways to respond to veterans' needs.

Join Deborah, author of *Peace at Last: Stories of Hope and Healing for Veterans and Their Families*, for the presentation that changed how America appreciates and cares for veterans at the end of life.



Deborah Grassman is the CEO and co-founder of Opus Peace, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides programs that respond to the soul injury that occurs during trauma, abuse, self-neglect, and serious illness. Deborah is a Nurse Practitioner whose career at the Department of Veterans Affairs spanned nearly 30 years. She was the Director of the Hospice program and personally took care of 10,000 dying veterans. She retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs and now provides education and consultation throughout the country.

Friday, September 11th

7:30 Registration

Session I - Educational Seminar

(8:30am - 12:00pm)

"Wounded Warriors: Their Last Battle"

Many military experiences impact peaceful dying for veterans – even though their death might not occur until decades later. You will learn about the unique needs of veterans as they age and face the end of their lives, the impact of the military experience on families, and tools for effective ways to respond to veterans' needs.

"Peace At Last: Stories of Hope and Healing for Veterans and Their Families"

Don't miss this unique opportunity to listen as Deborah Grassman shares personal stories about how 10,000 dying veterans fundamentally changed her over her 30-year VA career. Soul Injury and "Warrior Wisdom" attained from facing the aftermath of war will be highlighted. Forgiveness issues that sometimes surface as veterans prepare themselves to "Meet their Maker" will also be explored. Prepare yourselves for an eye-opening experience that awakens you to the aftermath of war and the potential for healing.

Session II - Soul Injury Ceremonial Workshop

(2:00pm - 7:30pm)

Have you served in a Dangerous-Duty military assignment that caused your soul to be bruised or wounded? Did you experience the death or injury of a comrade? Do you suffer from guilt or shame over things you think you should or should not have done? Are you the family member of a Veteran who has experienced soul injury? Are you a civilian who wants to help our nation heal from the aftermath of war? Are you a clinician who wants to assess and respond to soul injuries?

It is not too late to heal the wounds of war.

A ceremonial workshop has now been designed for Veterans, their families, healthcare providers, and civilians to help Veterans and their families lay their burdens down. Unmourned grief and unforgiven guilt can find safe sanctuary so there can be peace...at last. Cultivate the courage to heal the aftereffects of trauma by participating in an Opus Peace community ceremonial workshop.

7:45pm - Candlelight walk to Fallen Comrades Ceremony at Brown County Veterans Memorial

Please contact Tracy Rosinski with any questions, **920-257-7044**.

REGISTER TODAY!

Registration

****Must be received by 9/4/2015****

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

CEs are available.
Certificates of Attendance will be provided.

Please select which session(s) you will be attending:

☐ **Session I - \$50.00**

Registration includes two educational sessions and refreshments.

☐ **Session II- No Charge**

Registration includes 5 1/2 hour workshop and refreshments.

Please make checks payable to **Opus Peace**.
Mail completed registration and check to:

Heartland Hospice
1145 W. Main Ave, Ste. 205
De Pere, WI 54115
Attention: Tracy Rosinski

AN OPENING FOR... PEACE AT LAST

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

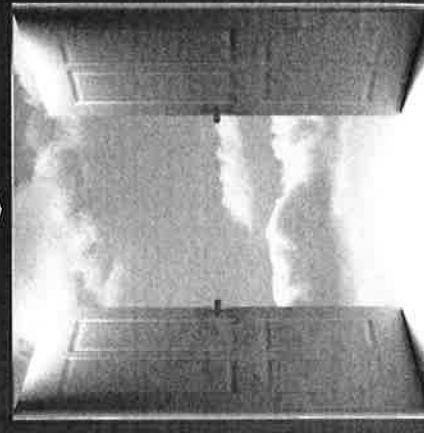
Green Bay Distillery
835 Mike McCarthy Way, Green Bay, WI 54304

Deborah Grassman, ARNP, CEO
Author & National Speaker

Abi Katz, MD
Premier Health System
Medical Director Advanced Illness Management
Dayton, Ohio

Naomi Diamond, SW
Civilian & Family Advocate
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Patty Surprenant, LMT
Veteran and Trauma Survivor
St. Petersburg, FL



Please contact Tracy Rosinski with any questions, 920-257-7044.

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www.opuspeace.org

Deborah's contribution toward advancing End-of-Life care in this country is described by NHPCO on their website:

"Deborah's work has dramatically and almost single-handedly increased awareness of Veterans and their unique end-of-life issues. Additionally, her insights into the family's experience offer perspectives for understanding how these experiences can impact on and often complicate grief and bereavement."



Deborah's book, *Peace at Last: Stories of Hope and Healing for Veterans and Their Families*, is used by multiple agencies to learn about the effects of past trauma on the quality of a person's dying process, the influence of the various cultures of war on dying veterans, stoicism, and warrior wisdom. Her new book, *The Hero Within: Redeeming the Destiny We Were Born to Fulfill* describes how to re-own and re-home lost pieces of self through the processes of abiding, reckoning, and beholding our interior hero. It is used by numerous agencies for staff development, team building, and personal growth.

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Soul Restoration Ceremonial Workshops:

Healing Unmourned Grief and Unforgiven Guilt

Soul Restoration Ceremonial Workshops are 3-dimensional providing education for the mind, safety for the heart, and courage to develop a new relationship with pain in the soul. In the process, participants discover that, paradoxically, the thing they were fleeing is the very thing that will free them up. The program is designed for people who have sustained trauma, abuse, self-neglect, and serious illness, as well as their families, and personal or professional caregivers. A safe haven is created so participants can re-own and re-home the parts of themselves that may still be carrying unmourned grief or unforgiven guilt. Participants experience some level of healing even if they only witness the ceremony without participating in it. The ceremonial workshop is flexibly designed to provide tools and resources for healing soul injuries in a 5-8 hour format, depending on the agency's need. Participants receive "Soul Buddy" dolls to help them give voice to the pain and anger they might experience due to the soul injury. Following the program, mental health counselors, massage therapists, chaplains, bereavement support, veteran resource programs, and others are available for follow-up care and referral. Exhibits provide resources for continued information, care, and support.

At a Soul Restoration Ceremonial Workshop, you will learn how:

- Soul injuries are stored in the body, mind, and spirit, as well as how this affects whole family systems.
- Unmourned grief from losses, as well as unforgiven guilt and shame over things you think you should or should not have done can subtly and not-so-subtly sabotage your life.
- To love, forgive, and trust yourself to navigate in the world again by disarming your heart while cultivating personal intimacy with fractured aspects of your own self.
- Experience some level of healing even if you only witness the ceremony without participating in it.

Civilians and Non-Traumatized Supporters will learn how to:

- Accept their role and responsibility in helping traumatized people recover from soul injuries.
- Create a safe haven for unmourned grief and unforgiven guilt.
- Heal the unconscious wound that civilians and families sustain when a nation is at war or a family is in chaos.



Soul Restoration Ceremonial Workshops:

Revitalizing the Weary, Wary Heart

Caregiving, whether personal or professional, takes a toll! Caregivers encounter emotional pain on a regular basis. Understandably, we often disconnect from the pain. By disconnecting from the part of self carrying the pain, we unwittingly contribute to the loss of energy, emptiness, and compassion fatigue that can ensue. This ceremonial workshop provides a restorative experience of self by re-owning and re-homing parts of self that may still be carrying unmourned grief. The program is 3-dimensional providing education for the mind, safety for the heart, and courage to develop a new relationship with weariness in the soul. This ceremonial workshop will be a gift you give to your staff and to the families of your patients. The length (5-8 hours) can be flexibly designed to meet your needs. Following the program, mental health counselors, massage therapists, chaplains, bereavement support, and others are available for follow-up care and referral. Exhibits provide resources for continued information, care, and support.